

# Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* in Angola

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**Falcão-de-nuca-vermelha *Falco chicquera* em Angola.** O falcão-de-nuca-vermelha *Falco chicquera* ocorre em todo o norte da Namíbia até à fronteira com Angola, mas até agora não havia registros confirmados para Angola. Apresentamos os primeiros avistamentos, registros de nidificação e fotografias da espécie no Parque Nacional do Iona, no sudoeste do país, imediatamente a norte da fronteira com a Namíbia. Esta espécie pode agora ser incondicionalmente aceite na lista de aves de Angola.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* has not been recorded with certainty from Angola (Traylor 1963, Pinto 1983, Dean 2000, Mills & Melo 2013), *contra* BirdLife International (2015), which maps the species as occurring almost throughout the country. The only report for Angola is from Bom Jesus on the Kwanza River near Luanda (09°09'52"S 13°33'54"E; Énard & Etchécopar 1970), more than 850 km distant from any confirmed records; it was mapped by Brown *et al.* (1982) as the only record for Angola, but was considered to require confirmation by Dean (2000). However, given that the species' range extends right up to the Angolan border throughout northern Namibia (Jenkins 2005), Red-necked Falcon was predicted to occur in palm savannas and floodplains in the far south-east (Dean 2000) and extreme south of the country (Mills & Melo 2013).

While stationed at Espinheira (16°47'10"S 12°21'30"E) in Iona National Park, in far south-west Angola, BB first noticed the presence of Red-necked Falcon in the surrounding arid

savanna/semi-desert (Fig. 1) in October 2013. BB was unaware of the significance of his observations, and did not report them, but he has since recorded Red-necked Falcons at least 30 times in the park, strongly suggesting that the species is resident in the area and not just a vagrant. In addition, he observed birds nesting during 2013 and 2014 in the same *Acacia erioloba* (a genus of tree frequently used for nesting; Jenkins 2005), 12 km south-west of Espinheira at 16°49'10"S 12°15'27"E, and <50 km north of the Namibian border.

In May 2015 PVP & NB visited Iona National Park and photographed a Red-necked Falcon. It was distinguished from all other falcons by its extensive chestnut crown and nape, well-barred grey back, heavily barred flanks, belly and vent, and plain, pale breast (Figs. 2–4). Based on range and habitat, the subspecies here is *horsbrughi*, although this taxon is indistinguishable by plumage from *ruficollis*, which is reported to differ only by being slightly smaller (Brown *et al.* 1982, Jenkins 2005). We present these photographs as evidence for the occurrence of Red-necked Falcon in Angola.



**Figure 1.** Typical semi-desert/arid savanna landscape of Iona National Park, Namibe Province, Angola, May 2015 (Pedro Vaz Pinto)

**Figura 1.** Típica paisagem semi-desértica/savana árida no Parque Nacional do Iona, Província do Namibe, Angola, maio de 2015 (Pedro Vaz Pinto)



**Figures 2–4.** Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*, Iona National Park, Namibe Province, Angola, 5 May 2015 (Pedro Vaz Pinto)

**Figuras 2–4.** Falcão-de-nuca-vermelha *Falco chicquera*, no Parque Nacional da Iona, província do Namibe, Angola, 5 de maio de 2015 (Pedro Vaz Pinto)

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